

Environmental Protection Agency

WASHINGTON

June 14, 2017

DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

TO: White House Cabinet Affairs Communications

FROM: John Konkus

SUBJECT: Communications Update

Inquiries

HQ

AP (Dan Elliot) [Received 6/13] – OPEN – Questions regarding OIG report. With OLEM for review.

Bloomberg (Sylvia Carignan) [Received 6/13] – OPEN – Looking for current Brownfields budget. With program. Deadline 3pm 6/13.

BNA (Stephen Joyce) [Received 6/14] – OPEN – Lead in drinking water. Program working on written response. DDL: 6/14.

BNA (Tiffany Stecker) [Received 6/14] - OPEN – Questions on TRI emissions from the food industry – discussing with program – no firm DDL

BU Research (Margaret Waterman) [Received 6/14] – OPEN – Asking if the EPA will republish story regarding EPA funded research published in BU Research.

CBS News (Graham Kates) [Received 6/13] – OPEN – Following up on questions regarding Administrator Pruitt's security detail.

Citizen's Voice (Bill Wellock) [Rec'd 6/13] – OPEN – Enhanced radon programs. DDL: 6/14 @ 3 PM. With OAR for response.

ABC News (Stephanie Ebbs); CQ Roll Call (Elvina Nawaguna) [Received 6/14] – OPEN -- Asking for Administrator Pruitt's prepared remarks ahead of EPA budget hearing tomorrow.

Detroit Free Press (Matthew Dolan) [Received 6/14] – OPEN – Seeking comment on criminal charges against state and local officials in connect with Flint Water Crisis.

DFW Child Magazine (Erin Hayes Burt) [Follow-up 6/14] -- Exemption of schools from LCR and SDWA. Program working on written response. DDL: 6/15.

Encore Magazine (John Wolfe); Gatehouse Media (Adam Wagner); Spectrum News (Kendra Douglas); WECT (Connor del Prete); WHQR (Cape Fear, NC) (Vince Winkel); WWAY TV3 (Basil John) [Received 6/8-14] -- CLOSED 6/13-14 -- Sent reviewed statement on GenX.

Encore Magazine (John Wolfe) [Follow-up 6/14] -- OPEN -- Follow up questions on GenX. Checking with the group to see if we can address them. DDL: 6/16.

Great Lakes Connection newsletter (Kevin Bunch) [Rec'd 6/13] – OPEN – Laker transport. DDL: 6/19. With OW for response.

Inside Science (Olivia Trani) [Received 6/14] - OPEN – Questions about wetlands in urban landscapes – awaiting reporter's questions and deadline info – DDL 6/20

Law360 (Adam Lidgett) [Received 6/14] – OPEN – Seeking comment on Sierra Club asking Fifth Circuit to overturn Texas judge's ruling regarding claims that a two plants underwent major modifications without controlling emissions.

The Lancet (Susan Jaffe) [Received 6/14] – CLOSED 6/14 – Seeking comment of BOSC dismissal of scientists. Jahan instructed no comment.

Men's Health Magazine (Micaela Young) [Follow-up 6/14] -- OPEN -- Safety of tap water. Program working on written responses. DDL: 6/15.

Michigan Live (Ron Fonger) [Received 6/13] – CLOSED 6/14 -- Budget proposal re: R5 and GLRI - Jahan handling.

NBC News (Brittany Auger) [Received 6/13] - OPEN - Reporter requesting agency comment on Environmental Defense Fund lead in food study – discussing with ORD – DDL 6/14 COB

NBC (Tom DiChristopher) [Received 6/14] – OPEN – Seeking clarification on Administrator Pruitt's statement from "The Week" on 6/4 regrading coal mining jobs. OMR not responding/acknowledging.

News 21 (Phoenix) (Jordan Houston) [Follow-up 6/14] – OPEN – Follow-up on drinking water standards. Program working on response. DDL: 6/22.

Our Urban Times (Elaine Coorens) [Received 6/13] – CLOSED 6/14 -- Question about closure of region 5. Jahan handling.

Washington Post (Dino Grandoni) [Received 6/14] – OPEN – Seeking clarifications on recently released emails from Administrator Pruitt's email with AG in OK. OMR not responding/acknowledging.

Waste360 (Arlene Karidis) [Received 6/14] – OPEN – Seeking interview on WasteWise. Asked OPS if it's okay to request her questions in writing. Deadline 6/20

WSB-TV (CBS, Atlanta; Terah Boyd) [Received 6/14] - CLOSED – Questions about University of Central Florida Research on filtering CO2 using sunlight – program will decline interview

Region 1

No new inquiries

Region 2

No new inquiries

Region 3

No new inquiries

Region 4

WFTV Ch. 9, Orlando (Fla.) (Angela Jacobs) [Received 6/14] – CLOSED - Discovered an area of a public park in Clermont that is raising questions on whether decades of pollution being unearthed from erosion hold environmental concerns. Forty years ago, a glass packing plant stood on the site whose nearby shoreline was covered by water. Those waters have receded in our recent drought, and buckets of glass and other trash are emerging that once sat packed deep into beneath the lake bed. Does EPA have oversight here to make sure a city government isn't ignoring environmental concerns to suit its own interests? Referred to local and state authorities.

The Washington Post (DC) (Chris Mooney) [Received 6/12] – CLOSED – Does EPA have a figure on how much was spent on the septic tanks by the government. Referred to HQ.

WSB-TV, Atlanta (Ga.) (Terah Boyd) [Received 6/13] – OPEN - We are featuring research published by the University of Central Florida that could really impact carbon dioxide emissions. They have developed a way to filter CO2 using sunlight. They believe this technology could be used to greatly reduce CO2 emissions from coal power plants in five to 10 years. The questions would be "if we could eliminate CO2 emissions from power plants what would that mean?" Also, have some broad CO2 regulation questions.

Florida Specifier (Fla.) (Roy Laughlin) [Received 6/13] – CLOSED – The reporter is now trying to find out if these numbers have changed or been updated for FY17 (the addition of NEP funding, etc.).

SuperfundResearch.org (DC/CA/OR) (Matthew Berdyck) [Received 6/14] – CLOSED – Information about GenX, including EPA's current involvement and when the agency expects to make a determination about the safety of the water. Referred to HQ.

Region 5

Connect Public Media Network (Karen Woodworth) [Received 6/13] - OPEN – Request for a follow-up interview regarding Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site for *Connect* TV program.

Cleveland Plain Dealer (Jim McCarty) [Received 6/14] - OPEN –Request for a tour of Tremont, Ohio, cleanup site before EPA starts time-critical removal work. DDL: not specified.

CMU Public Radio (Max Cobb) [Received 6/14] - OPEN – Seeking up on cleanup of two segments on the Tittabawassee River Michigan. DDL: not specified. **Region 6**

Region 6

No new inquiries

Region 7

No new inquiries

Region 8

News21/XXX Affiliate (Lauren Kaljur) [Rec'd 6/14] OPEN – inquiring about SRF/Tribal water infrastructure.

Denver Post (Bruce Finley) [Rec'd 6/14] OPEN – asking about PFC contamination in Colorado Springs area and the fact that Air Force is not investigating possible groundwater plume. DDL not specified

Denver Post (Bruce Finley) [Rec'd 6/14] OPEN – multiple questions re: Bonita Peak. DDL not specified

Region 9

No new inquiries

Region 10

No new inquiries

Top Stories

[[HYPERLINK "http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/14/debunked-study-exposes-the-huge-flaws-in-epa-science/" \h](http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/14/debunked-study-exposes-the-huge-flaws-in-epa-science/)]

DEBUNKED: Study Exposes The Huge Flaws In EPA Science

[[\]](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2017/06/14/stories/1060056039)

Industry groups support EPA in methane litigation

[[\]](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2017/06/14/stories/1060056041)

Farmworkers, greens sue EPA over rule delay

[[\]](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-fiat-chrysler-emissions-idUSKBN1952K0)

U.S. regulators still reviewing Fiat Chrysler diesel vehicle fix: lawyer

[[\]](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-interior-naturalgas-idUSKBN1952H7)

Trump administration to suspend rule on natural gas waste: document

[[\]](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-administration-delays-rules-limiting-methane-emissions/2017/06/14/0e7d50fa-512b-11e7-be25-3a519335381c_story.html?utm_term=.9dcec252dc3c)

Trump administration delays rules limiting methane emissions

[[\]](https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-06-14/trump-s-environment-rollbacks-won-t-stick-obama-s-epa-head-says)

Trump's Environment Rollbacks Won't Stick, Obama's EPA Head Says

[[\]](https://morningconsult.com/2017/06/14/walden-calls-epa-focus-basics-downplays-climate/)

Walden Calls for EPA to Focus on Basics, Downplays Climate

[[\]](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/06/14/stories/1060056013)

Will EPA consider climate change in cleanup plans?

[[\]](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jun/14/epa-pollution-rule-delay-children)

EPA: air pollution rule should be delayed – despite its effect on children

[[\]](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/06/14/stories/1060056025)

Inhofe, Mullin praise EPA safety regs delay

[[\]](http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/14/epa-will-delay-obama-era-fracking-rules-by-two-years/)

EPA Will Delay Obama-Era Fracking Rules By Two Years

[HYPERLINK "<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-congress-reacts-to-epa-cuts-st-0614-20170614-story.html>" \h]

Lawmakers, environmentalists voice concern over proposed EPA cuts

[HYPERLINK "<https://undark.org/2017/06/14/science-climate-capitol-hill-budget/>" \h]

With programs in peril, climate environmental science advocates gird for a fight

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/epa-proposes-two-year-delay-of-oil-gas-methane-rule-089048>" \h]

EPA proposed two-year delay of oil, gas methane rule

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/ethanol-waiver-battle-royale-set-for-today-023292>" \h]

Ethanol waiver battle royale set for today

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2017/06/14/stories/1060055998>" \h]

Lawmakers defend funds ahead of Pruitt's visit

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2017/06/14/stories/1060055997>" \h]

Knives out on Paris, State Dept. restructuring

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2017/06/14/stories/1060055987>" \h]

'I have my integrity, and so does Mr. Pruitt

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2017/06/14/stories/1060056001>" \h]

EPA announces 2-year stay for emissions rule

[HYPERLINK "<https://insideepa.com/daily-news/9th-circuit-judges-doubt-epa-claim-no-duty-revise-lead-dust-rules>" \h]

9th Circuit judges doubt EPA claim of no duty to revise lead dust rules

[HYPERLINK "<https://insideepa.com/daily-news/bodine-pledges-continued-enforcement-while-downplaying-budget-cuts>" \h]

Bodine pledges continued enforcement while downplaying budget cuts

[HYPERLINK "<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-epa-superfund-20170614-story.html>" \h]

Trump's EPA wants to focus on Superfund cleanups. Will its plans take climate change into account?

[HYPERLINK "<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-tally-shows-numbers-dont-add-up-for-democrats/article/2625883>" \h]

EPA tally shows numbers don't add up for Democrats

[HYPERLINK "<https://insideepa.com/daily-news/groups-launch-efforts-advance-carbon-cost-face-trump-rollback>" \h]

Groups launch efforts to advance carbon 'cost' in face of Trump rollback

[HYPERLINK "<https://insideepa.com/daily-news/new-mexico-urges-justices-reject-doj-claims-gold-king-spill-suit>" \h]

New Mexico urges justices to reject DOJ's claims in Gold King Spill suit

[HYPERLINK "<https://insideepa.com/daily-news/epa-ig-finds-no-legal-fault-agencys-handling-gold-king-mine-spill>" \h]

EPA IG finds no legal fault in agency's handling of Gold King Mine Spill

[[HYPERLINK "http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-wants-to-halt-fracking-rules-by-two-years-instead-of-90-days/article/2625885" \h](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-wants-to-halt-fracking-rules-by-two-years-instead-of-90-days/article/2625885)]

EPA wants to halt fracking rules by two years, instead of 90 days

[[HYPERLINK "http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/337677-epa-moves-to-halt-methane-rule-for-two-years" \h](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/337677-epa-moves-to-halt-methane-rule-for-two-years)]

EPA moves to halt Obama methane rule for two years

[[HYPERLINK](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114237027&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=499025000&searchid=30048369&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0)

["http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114237027&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=499025000&searchid=30048369&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0" \h](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114237027&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=499025000&searchid=30048369&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0)]

EPA Enforcement Office Nominee Says Federal Role Remains

[[HYPERLINK](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114237031&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=499021500&searchid=30048369&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0)

["http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114237031&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=499021500&searchid=30048369&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0" \h](http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=114237031&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=499021500&searchid=30048369&doctypeid=2&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=1245&pg=0)]

EPA Pledges Long-Term Elimination of New Chemicals Backlog

[[HYPERLINK "http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-epa-methane-idUSKBN1942ZY" \h](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-epa-methane-idUSKBN1942ZY)]

U.S. EPA extends delay of oil, gas rules to two years

Top Issues and Accomplishments

Produced Video: America Agri-Women talk with EPA about their environmental stewardship
(at www.epa.gov)